

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan

Technical Advisory Committee – Studies, Research, and Best Practices Subcommittee

Subject	Studies/Research/Best Practices Subcommittee Meeting #4 Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework	Date	May 14, 2021
Facilitator	Dr. Robert Weiss	Time	10:00am – 11:30am
Location	WebEx - https://governor.virginia.gov/i/uu8jn	Scribe	Ashley Samonisky

Invitees/Attendees			
#	Name	Organization/Role	Attended?
Studies, Research, and Best Practices Subcommittee Members and Staff Advisors			
1.	Dr. Robert Weiss - Chair	Director, Center for Coastal Studies at Virginia Tech	Y
2.	Dr. Karen McGlathery – Vice Chair	Director, Environmental Resilience Institute, University of Virginia	Y
3.	Shurui Zhang – Staff Advisor	Commonwealth Coastal and Marine Policy Fellow, Virginia Sea Grant	Y
4.	Elizabeth Andrews	Director, Virginia Coastal Policy Center at William & Mary Law School	Y
5.	Dr. Jessica Whitehead	Executive Director, Institute for Coastal Adaptation and Resilience (ICAR), Old Dominion University	Y
6.	Dr. Carl Hershner	Emeritus Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William & Mary	Y
7.	Whitney Katchmark	Principal Water Resources Engineer, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission	Y
8.	Dr. Mark Luckenbach	Associate Dean for Research and Advisory Services, Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William & Mary	Y
9.	Catherine C. McGhee	Director of Research and Innovation, Virginia Transportation Research Council	Y
10.	Ashley Montgomery	Associate Designer, Hanbury	Y
11.	Mary-Carson Stiff	Wetlands Watch Policy Director, Wetlands Watch	Y
12.	William “Skip” Stiles, Jr.	Executive Director, Wetlands Watch	
13.	Carlos Rivero	Chief Data Officer	
14.	Dr. Robert S. Young	Geology Professor, Program Director for the Study of Developed Shorelines, Western Carolina University	
Scheduled Speakers			
15.	Barbara Brown Wilson	UVA Equity Center, University of Virginia	Y
Designated Alternates			
Subcommittee Advisors			
16.	Emily Steinhilber	Director, Virginia Coastal Resilience - Environmental Defense Fund	Y
17.	Jessica Grannis	Coastal Resilience Director, Audubon	
Other Participants			
18.	Ann Phillips	Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.) – Office of the Governor	Y
19.	Matt Dalon	DCR	Y
20.	Connor Winstead	DCR	Y
21.	Robert Martz		Y
22.	Chris Stone		Y
23.	Curtis Smith		Y
24.	Grace Tucker		Y
Consultant Support			
25.	Brian Batten	Dewberry	Y
26.	Johanna Greenspan-Johnston	Dewberry	Y

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#	Name	Organization/Role	Attended?
27.	Dale Morris	The Water Institute	Y
28.	Ashley Samonisky	Vision Planning and Consulting	Y

Agenda/Minutes		
#	Agenda Item	Minutes
1.	Welcome and Chapter 1289 Reading	<p>Dr. Robert Weiss provided a welcome to the meeting and read the required Section 1289 language.</p> <p>It is requested that the attendees ask questions through the chat box, and Shurui Zhang will moderate the chat. For public comment, you can also submit your comment through http://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov/sample%20letters/welcome.htm.</p> <p>If there are connectivity issues, please contact Shurui Zhang at 217-979-8438.</p>
2.	Roll Call and Quorum Affirmation	<p>Dr. Weiss called roll to establish a quorum, a quorum is present. Dr. Weiss asked for a motion to continue the meeting virtually. Dr. Mark Luckenbach motioned; motion was seconded. Motion passed.</p> <p>Staff will be muted throughout the presentations and may ask questions or place comments in the chat box. Members will be unmuted, as necessary when the discussion period is opened.</p>
3.	Approval Today's Agenda and Past Minutes	<p>Dr. Weiss asked if members required any corrections to last month's meeting minutes. No comments. Dr. Weiss approved the minutes as distributed.</p>
4.	Climate Equity Atlas - Presentation by Dr. Barbara Brown Wilson - UVA Equity Center, University of Virginia	<p>Dr. Weiss provided an introduction to Dr. Barbara Brown Wilson, of UVA Equity Center, University of Virginia, and a brief background on her work. Dr. Weiss turned the meeting over to Dr. Wilson.</p> <p>Dr. Wilson provided an introduction to the Climate Equity Atlas and the Democracy Initiative Center and gave her presentation on the project (see attached slides).</p> <p>Dr. Wilson opened the floor to questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q – Dr. Mark Luckenbach – The Atlas is pulling together the steps and conceptual approach for the two locations where this study is in progress. Will there be summaries or case studies when you are finished? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A – Dr. Wilson – Yes. We hope to have a set of maps that are visually compelling and data rich. These will be distributed a number of ways. This is considered case study research and we are also working with NOVA on social justice work such as evictions etc. But there is much overlap between these issues. • Q – Dr. Carl Hershner – Thank you, this is very exciting work. There is a lot of potential here for where the Commonwealth is trying to go in terms of climate resilience. Our need for near-term implementation has challenges, such as our ability to assess the comprehensive picture locally and regionally. We need to have an idea of if a project is appropriate to the needs of the community. In the absence of local leader input, do your metrics generate a

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Technical Advisory Committee – Studies, Research, and Best Practices Subcommittee

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		<p>preliminary tool to help local governments and this TAC or CRMP process make a quick assessment of the equity needs/issues in a locality?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A – Dr. Wilson – I believe so. We are working closely with Albemarle County to implement an equity impact assessment protocol, which is a set of questions/prompts for making decisions in a local government. Our map is also a support tool for local governments. Many areas use data sets only, so these will help check any blind spots so we do not reproduce inequities. So yes, it is feasible, but would involve a series of questions for a local group or government to answer in regard to performance criteria. ○ A – Dr. Hershner – Are you working with RAFT Team? Their tool would be a great place for integrations. ○ A – Dr. Wilson – Yes, we are very familiar and have worked directly with them. RAFT often saw equity removed and the project refocused on economics. They will use this tool to help them fill those gaps. ○ A – Dr. Karen McGlathery – Have you heard about the PREP tool? It is also a series of questions. It might be an interesting follow up with Tanya Denckla Cobb to embed equity questions into the PREP tool. ○ A – Elizabeth Andrews – I am a partner on this project and it would be useful to have a conversation on this idea before we finalize to see how it could fit into the CRMP process. It could help localities to identify which topics to think about going forward. <p>Dr. McGlathery will coordinate a conversation between Dr. Wilson, Elizabeth Andrews, and Tanya Denckla Cobb for next steps.</p> <p>Dr. Weiss asked if there were any more questions or any posted in the chat. No questions. Dr. Weiss thanked Dr. Wilson for the presentation.</p>
5.	<p>Updates from Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relocation ● Natural and Nature-Based Infrastructure ● Socioeconomic Equity 	<p>Dr. Weiss gave a brief introduction to the working groups (WG) and asked each to give their report for the past month.</p> <p>The Relocation WG met on April 27th and heard presentations from Dr. Robert Young and discussed ways to integrate what has been accomplished in other states, such as Louisiana, and what can be leveraged for Virginia. Key questions include: What should our research team focus on? Many other questions are complicated and the WG needs to spend more time working these out, preferably over email, as meetings are difficult to organize. The WG will draft a handbook and submit it to the state for review.</p> <p>Mary Carson Stiff provided an intro to the Natural and Nature-Based Infrastructure working group meeting. Key questions included: What we will focus on? What is our timeline? How do we coordinate with the release of the CRMP? The WG decided their role is to focus on the largest issues that Natural and Nature-Based Infrastructure face. Some issues include how larger swaths of existing wetlands will migrate, or the loss of wetlands during sea level rise altogether. Hybrid shoreline approaches is the strong preference for Virginia shorelines, but how do planners create approaches for higher wave action in the future, and incorporate smart grey actions where all green is not</p>

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan

Technical Advisory Committee – Studies, Research, and Best Practices Subcommittee

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		<p>possible? Also, the WG will need to discuss the legal implications of migrating wetlands, and the protection of private property versus protection of public infrastructure. What happens when private areas encroach on public properties? Additionally, oyster reefs and restoration of the reefs and riparian buffers are also key. A literature review and policy recommendations development are in progress. This is just a foundation, and the WG are assessing who has summer research capacity to build out these resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q – Dr. Weiss - Can these research resources be pooled for the benefit of the full Subcommittee? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A – Mary Carson – Yes. This is our goal. <p>The Socioeconomic WG met on April 29th and discussed framing equity, and creating a strong definition for use in the CRMP. They then discussed the metrics that would be necessary to define engagement, outreach, and project identification going forward. The first task is to outline the themes and topics for building equity into the CRMP. Frames such as supporting data sets, and identifying if any are defined by users or context is a key issue. Additional questions include: What do we have available right now? What will we need to build in the future? How and where do these overlap? The WG will highlight the “top ten” themes and metrics, and will meet at the end of the month to discuss and finalize.</p> <p>Dr Weiss thanked all members of the working groups and asked if there were any comments on the WG report. No Comments/Questions.</p>
6.	Discussion and Comments	<p>Dr Weiss thanked Emily Steinbilber for her hard work on the Subcommittee, and welcomed Dr. Karen McGlathery for stepping up on the Subcommittee. Dr. Weiss also invited Dr. Jessica Whitehead to introduce herself and describe her new position at ODU. She gave a brief overview of her background and experience in both South Carolina and North Carolina, as well as with Sea Grant and climate adaptation planning.</p> <p>Last month Dr. Weiss asked members of the Subcommittee to submit keywords describing their interests and expertise. Dr. Weiss asks for additional technical expertise to support Dewberry’s questions and project needs. So as not to overburden any one person, a variety of experience is needed. Please send these keywords over if you have not done so already. If Dewberry needs a specific answer now or in the future, this Subcommittee hopes to direct them to these experts/specialists. Please send these keywords to Dr. McGlathery, Dr Weiss, and Shurui Zhang.</p> <p>Read Admiral Ann Phillips provided updates regarding outreach efforts, and gave a brief introduction to Vision Planning and Consulting’s outreach work and products. She brought up the outreach strategy guidance document, which was sent for review to Subcommittee members, and reminded attendees that outreach touches many Subcommittees, more than just the Outreach Subcommittee, and in time, every group will be contributing to these outreach efforts in one way or another. One step is to connect with universities and institutions. Key question include: How do we involve these institutions, or best reach the universities, and still be considerate of everyone’s</p>

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		<p>time? Do we build on existing work or for research and analysis? What other ways can we add value?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Weiss asked the Subcommittee to consider these topics and to discuss this during the next meeting. <p>Dr. Weiss asked if anyone else had a discussion point to bring up. No Comments.</p>
7.	Public Comment Period	Dr. Weiss asked for any public comments. No Public comments submitted or speakers registered.
8.	Adjourn	<p>Dr. Weiss reiterated that this has been an effective meeting and advised attendees to not hesitate to email himself or Dr. McGlathery if they have any questions.</p> <p>Dr. Weiss reiterated for members to send in their three interest and expertise bullets so the Subcommittee can create a pool of experts to direct Dewberry to for input/data in the future.</p> <p>Dr. Weiss asked for a motion to adjourn, Elizabeth Andrews moved, Dr. Hershner seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm</p>

Action Items			
#	Action Item	Owner (Organization)	Due Date
1.	Coordinate a conversation between Dr. Wilson, Elizabeth Andrews, and Tanya Denckla Cobb for next steps regarding the Equity Atlas and RAFT/PREP next steps.	Dr. McGlathery	TBD
2.	Submit keywords/bullets describing three interests and three areas of expertise to create a pool of experts for Dewberry to approach in the future.	All	TBD
3.			
4.			

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Samonisky, Vision Planning and Consulting, at asamonisky@vision-pc.net.